



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY



The Easter Liturgy 2024

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

From earliest times Christians have gathered through the night of Easter Eve to recall the story of God's saving work, from creation through to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. However, the Easter Liturgy is not only a presentation of God's work. It is meant to be a real experience of new life for the worshipper, a passing from darkness to light which offers hope to all the faithful. Indeed, the themes of death to life, darkness to light, destruction to new creation occur over and over again in the various sections of the service: the lighting of the Paschal Candle, the readings, the renewal of baptism vows, and the Eucharist in which all are united with Christ in his death and resurrection.

The Choral Setting is
Matthew Martin (b.1976), The Oratory Mass

Livestreaming

This service will be livestreamed and you may be seen on camera, although we will not deliberately take any close-ups of the congregation. By attending you agree to be seen in this way. If you have any concerns please speak to a member of the clergy.

Cover Image: Detail from 'The Resurrection', Christopher Whall (1849-1924), South-West Transept, Canterbury Cathedral.



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An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in the Cathedral. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to T.



Large print orders of service are available from the stewards and virgins. Please ask.

The Service of Light

The lights are put out and the clergy and choir move to the West Door and the congregation joins them outside, unless the weather is wet, in which case the congregation remains inside facing the Great West Doors.

The president says

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
on this most holy night,
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
the Church invites her children throughout the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.
This is the Passover of the Lord.
We remember his death and resurrection
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries,
confident that we shall share his victory over death
and live with him for ever in God.

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
set us aflame with the fire of your love,
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The president then traces the Greek letters, Alpha and Omega, the cross and the numerals of this year on the Paschal Candle, saying

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages;
to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever.
Amen.

He then blesses the incense studs and inserts them into the Candle reminding us of the five wounds of Christ.

By his holy and glorious wounds
may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.
Amen.

The president lights the candle from the new fire, saying

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The minister bearing the Candle enters the cathedral, followed by the others ministers. The congregation joins the back of the procession.

The minister bearing the Candle sings

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The procession of the Easter Candle moves further into the Nave, stopping twice more. The versicle and response are repeated, and the light of the Easter Candle is passed to all.

After the last proclamation the Candle is placed in its stand and censed.

The Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise) is sung

Exsultet

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of Angels;
O Universe, dance around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation.
Rejoice, O earth, in glory,
revealing the splendour of your creation,
radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!

Rejoice, O Mother Church!
Exult in Glory!
The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good that with hearts and minds and voices
we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God,
through your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who has saved us by his death,
paid for us the price of Adam's sin,
and reconciled us once again to you.
For this is the Passover feast,
when Christ, the true Lamb of God is slain,
whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.
This is the night when you first saved our ancestors,
freeing Israel from her slavery and leading her safely through the sea,
This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell,
broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.
This is the night when all who believe in him
are freed from sin, restored to grace and holiness.

This is the night that gave us back what we had lost;
beyond our deepest dreams you made even our sin a happy fault.
Most blessed of all nights!
Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away,
lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.
Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,
peace and justice find a home,
and heaven is joined to earth and all creation reconciled to you.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering;
this wax, the work of bees and the hands of your ministers.
As we gaze upon the splendour of this flame,
fed by melting wax conceived by Mother bee,
grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.
For Christ, the Morning Star, has risen in glory;
Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us!
Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!
Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Vigil

The President says

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer. Let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

Sit

Reading *Genesis 1.1-2.4a*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants

yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Psalm 104

The cantor sings the response and it is repeated by the congregation.



Praise the Lord, O my soul, O Lord God, your glory is great:
How manifold are your works, in wisdom you have made them all.

Send forth your spirit, O Lord, And renew the face of the earth.

All creatures look to you, to give them their food to eat:
When you open your hand, they are filled with good,
When you hide your face, they pine away.

Response

When you take away their breath, they die,
And return to the earth whence they came: when you send forth your spirit, all
things spring to life, and the face of the earth is renewed.

Response

The glory of the Lord shall never cease, the Lord shall rejoice in all his works:
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live, I will praise my God while my breath
remains.

Response

Silence is kept

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image.
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Amen.

Reading *Exodus 14.10-31, 15.1a*

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.' But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his

chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.’ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.’

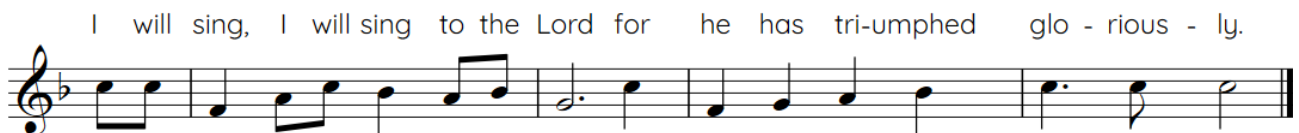
Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.’ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

‘I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

Canticle, The Song of Miriam



I will sing to the Lord for he has triumphed gloriously, horse and rider he has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my might and he has become my salvation.

I will sing, I will sing to the Lord: For he has triumphed gloriously.

This is my God and I will praise him, my father’s God and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a warrior, The Lord is his name.

Response

In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries; you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble. At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up, the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

Response

You brought them in and planed them on the mountain of your own possession, O Lord, that you have made your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established. The Lord will reign for ever.

Response

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: 'Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

Response

Silence is kept

The Collect

Lord God our Redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery, free us from the tyranny of sin and death and, by the leading of your Spirit, bring us to our promised land; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading *Daniel 3.1-28*

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counsellors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counsellors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, the herald proclaimed aloud, 'You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.' Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshipped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, 'O king, live for ever! You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.'

Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the

king. Nebuchadnezzar said to them, 'Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?'

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defence to you in this matter. If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.'

Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace to be heated up seven times more than was customary, and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counsellors, 'Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?' They answered the king, 'True, O king.' He replied, 'But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god.' Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, 'Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!' So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counsellors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. Nebuchadnezzar said, 'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.'

Canticle, Bless the Lord (Song of the three)

Refrain

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Blessed are you, the God of our ancestors, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever. Blessed is your holy and glorious name, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Response

Blessed are you, in your holy and glorious temple, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever. Blessed are you who look into the depths, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever. **Response**

Blessed are you, enthroned on the cherubim, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever. Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever. **Response**

Blessed are you in the heights of heaven, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever. Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, worthy to be praised and exalted for ever. **Response**

Silence is kept

The Collect

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

Jonah 1

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, 'Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.' But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

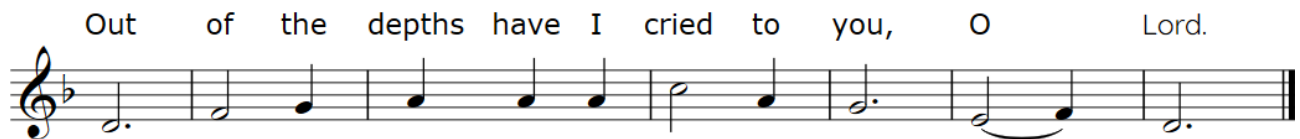
But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. The captain came and said to him, 'What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.'

The sailors said to one another, 'Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us.' So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, 'Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?' 'I am a Hebrew,' he replied. 'I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.' Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, 'What is this that you have done!' For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them so.

Then they said to him, 'What shall we do to you, that the sea may quieten down for us?' For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. He said to them, 'Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quieten down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you.' Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but

they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. Then they cried out to the Lord, 'Please, O Lord, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man's life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.' So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

Psalm 130



Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication. **Response**

If you, O Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you shall be feared. **Response**

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope. My soul waits for the Lord, more than the night watch for the morning, more than the night watch for the morning. **Response**

O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy; With him is plenteous redemption and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. **Response**

Silence is kept

The Collect

Lord of all time and eternity,
You open the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus, you beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit, complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Easter Acclamation

All stand as the organ sounds

The congregation extinguish their candles, and bells are rung loudly

The president proclaims

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Remain standing as the choir sings

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us, you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer, you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

The president says

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Silence is kept

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

Sit

The Epistle *Romans 6.3-11*

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand



Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ,
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy.

⁴Triumphant in his glory now
His sceptre ruleth all,
Earth, heaven and hell before him bow,
And at his footstool fall.

²How Judah's Lion burst his chains,
And crushed the serpent's head:
And brought with him,
from death's domains,
The long-imprisoned dead.

⁵While joyful thus his praise we sing,
His mercy we implore,
Into his palace bright to bring
And keep us evermore.

³From hell's devouring jaws the prey
Alone our Leader bore;
His ransomed hosts pursue their way
Where he hath gone before.

⁶All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
While endless ages run.

Alleluia! Amen.

Words: St Fulbert of Chartres (d 1028)
tr Robert Campbell (1814-68)

Tune: ST FULBERT

AM 221

Remain standing

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia.

He has defeated the powers of death.

Alleluia.

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

Alleluia.

He has the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

The Gospel *Matthew 28.1-10*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are

looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

A fanfare is played on the organ

After the Gospel Book has been returned to the altar, we sing as those who are seated in the Compass Rose move behind the ministers to the font, and those in the main body of the Cathedral turn to face the font.



Source and fount of all creation,
 pour thy Spirit from above
 on the bearers of thine image,
 offspring of a human love.
 Human hopes and human graces
 break beneath the weight of sin;
 fear and envy wrench asunder
 world without and self within.

²Human love is unavailing
 counter-weight to sin and strife;
 love of God alone can hold us
 on the way that leads to life.
 Praised be God, whose Son our
 Saviour
 human nature has restored,
 living, dying, raised in glory,
 to the likeness of its Lord.

³Trace, O Christ, salvation's pattern,
 God and sinner reconciled,
 in an all-embracing story:
 new creation, new-born child.
 Word incarnate, world's Redeemer,
 here in us thy work repeat,
 signed and sealed thine own for ever,
 till the pattern stands complete.

⁴Christ our universal Saviour,
 nature's poet, nature's priest,
 through life's troubled waters bring us
 to the eucharistic feast,
 where rejoicing saint and sinner
 praise the Lord of time and space,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 fount of being, source of grace.

Words: Peter Baelz (1923-2000)

Tune: BLAENWERN

AM 337

The Liturgy of Initiation

Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Water

The president stands before the water of baptism and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan:
we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.
Saving God, **give us life.**

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land.
Saving God, **give us life.**

We thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.
Saving God, **give us life.**

Bless this water, that all who are washed in it
may be made one with Christ
in his death and in his resurrection,
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.
Saving God, **give us life.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon all the baptized,
bring them to new birth in the household of faith,
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority, and power are yours,
now and for ever.
Saving God, **give us life.**

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead,
we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been
buried with him in baptism.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?
I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?
I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?
I repent of them.

Profession of Faith

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

The waters of baptism are sprinkled over the people as the choir sings

This joyful Eastertide away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.

*Had Christ, who once was slain,
ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain.
But now hath Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber
till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number:
Death's flood hath lost its chill since Jesus crossed the river,
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver:

Words: G R Woodward (1848-1934)

Music: Trad., arr Charles Wood (1866-1926)

The President says

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptized into your name.

Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Remain standing

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Peace

The president says

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,
'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Members of the congregation greet one another.

The Offertory Hymn *during which the table is prepared and the gifts of the people are gathered and presented.*

If you would prefer to give by text-message*, or use the QR code

- To give £5 – text SERVICE to 70560
- To give £10 – text SERVICE to 70580

*In addition to any text donation, you will incur your standard network message charge.



In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

²In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the love of God was glorified –
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

³There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine —
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

⁴No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Words and music: Stewart Townend (b 1963) *and* Keith Getty (b 1974) AM 678

The president takes the bread and wine and praises God for his gifts

Lord of life,
with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.
As we are fed with the bread of heaven
may we know your resurrection power;
through Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father,
and on this night of our redemption to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
Earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

The choir sings

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and, as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, each in our own language,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven,	<i>Notre Père...</i>
hallowed be your name,	
your kingdom come,	<i>Vater Unser...</i>
your will be done,	
on earth as in heaven.	<i>Onze Vader...</i>
Give us today our daily bread.	
Forgive us our sins	<i>Padre Nuestro...</i>
as we forgive those who sin against us.	
Lead us not into temptation	<i>Ojcie Nasz...</i>
but deliver us from evil.	
For the kingdom, the power,	<i>Baba Yetu...</i>
and the glory are yours	
now and for ever. Amen.	<i>E to matou Matua...</i>
	<i>Ein Tad...</i>

Remain standing for

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Lord, our hearts hunger for you; give us this bread always.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Sit as the president and other ministers begin

The Distribution of Communion

*Please come up for Communion as directed by the stewards. All who are regular communicants in their own tradition are welcome to receive the sacrament. If you are not a communicant, you are welcome to come forward at this point in the service to receive a blessing, keeping your hands to your sides. Please ask the priest if you **need a gluten-free host**.*

*We request that **you do not intinct (dip) your host in the wine** but either take a sip from the cup or remain with your head bowed. This is for the reasons of good hygiene.*

If you wish to receive communion in your seat, please let a steward know this.

*We keep a **prayerful silence** during Communion to allow others to prepare to receive the sacrament or pray afterwards.*

During Communion, the choir sings the Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Towards the end of Communion, we sing



Bread is blessed and broken,
wine is blessed and poured:
take this and remember
Christ the Lord.

³Know yourself forgiven,
find yourself restored,
meet a friend for ever—
Christ the Lord.

²Share the food of heaven
earth cannot afford.
Here is grace in essence—
Christ the Lord

⁴God has kept his promise
sealed by sign and word:
here, for those who want him—
Christ the Lord.

Words: John L Bell (b. 1949)
Graham Maule (b. 1958)

Tune: GRACE IN ESSENCE

AM 429

Prayer after Communion

The President says

Let us pray.

Stand to pray in silence, before the President says

God of Life, who for our redemption
gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him
in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All then say

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

The Dismissal



Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise;
he, who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

²Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.

³Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
to the Triune Majesty.

Words: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-85)

Tune: LUX EOI

AM 194

Remain standing

Blessing

The president says

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.
Amen.

God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.
Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Deacon sings

With the risen life of Christ within you,
Go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Organ Voluntary



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